

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An air gap spacer for providing spacing between an outer wall surface of a building under construction and an exterior cladding material, the air gap spacer comprising:

a planar surface comprising a plurality of interconnected matter surface areas and having a plurality of ~~cutouts~~ apertures between the matter surface areas, the apertures aggregately comprising a greater portion of the planar surface's total area than the matter surface areas aggregately comprise; and

a plurality of mutually spaced protrusions of substantially uniform height ~~depending~~ protruding from only one side of said matter surface areas ~~planar surface~~, the ~~apices~~ apexes of at least some of said protrusions forming a protrusion plane, portions of the matter surface areas corresponding to the protrusions' bases being un-apertured on another side of the matter surface areas opposite the protrusions ~~the protrusion plane for abutment to the outer wall surface of the building;~~

whereby, when the spacer is in place between the outer wall surface of the building and the exterior cladding material, liquid and air may pass through channels formed ~~among~~ between the protrusions, and not through the protrusions, to facilitate air circulation in, and liquid drainage from, the spacing between the outer wall surface and the exterior cladding material.

2. (Previously Presented) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein said protrusions depend from said planar surface at least approximately perpendicularly.

3. (Original) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein said protrusions are of like dimensions, terminating to form said protrusion plane.

4. (Previously Presented) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein said protrusion plane is at least substantially parallel to said planar surface.

5. ((Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein said apertured surface comprises apertures and matter surface area of similar magnitudes.

6. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein said apertured surface comprises greater apertures than matter surface areas.

7. (Currently Amended) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein the ~~entire~~ apertures of said planar surface are of a repeating pattern over at least substantially the entire spacer.

8. (Original) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein said protrusions are of a repeating pattern over at least substantially the entire surface of the spacer.

9. (Currently Amended) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein the ~~entire~~ apertures are selected from a shape of the group consisting of: diamond, circular, square, rectangular, oval and quadrilateral.

10. (Original) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein said protrusions are selected from a shape of the group consisting of: pyramidal, flat topped pyramidal, conical, flat topped conical, rectangular based pyramid, cuboid and rectangular block.

11. (Original) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein the spacer is made by at least one of: injection moulding, pouring moulding, extrusion or stamping.

12. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer comprising: an apertured sheet material of at least substantially uniform thickness, the sheet material being adapted for placement between an outer wall surface of a building under construction and an exterior cladding material so as to provide an air gap there between, wherein the spacer material includes passages therein, so as to permit air circulation and liquid drainage among said apertures.

13. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 12, wherein said sheet material is of a lattice structure forming diamond shaped apertures, said passages running through the lattice structure.

14. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 12, wherein said passages are disposed at intersections formed by said spacer material.

15. (Original) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein the air gap spacer is adapted to be secured to the surface of the building being constructed by way of securing means selected from the group consisting of tacks, nails and screws.

16. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein the air gap spacer comprises a plurality of mounting holes therein, whereby securing means may be placed there through for attaching the spacer to the surface of the building being constructed.

17. (Original) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein the exterior cladding material is one of: siding, shingles, brick and clapboard.

18. (Original) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein the spacer is made of a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, metal, aluminum, and pressed wood particle product.

19. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 12, wherein the air gap spacer is adapted to be secured to the surface of the building being constructed by way of securing means selected from the group consisting of tacks, nails and screws.

20. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 12, wherein the air gap spacer comprises a plurality of mounting holes therein, whereby securing means may be placed there through for attaching the spacer to the surface of the building being constructed.

21. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 12, wherein the exterior cladding material is one of: siding, shingles, brick and clapboard.

22. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 12, wherein the spacer is made of a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, metal, aluminum, and pressed wood particle product.

23. (Currently Amended) An air gap spacer for providing spacing between an outer wall surface of a building under construction and an exterior cladding material, the air gap spacer comprising:

a ~~lattice-shaped~~ planar surface for attachment to an exterior sheathing or wrap over the outer wall surface prior to the exterior cladding material being attached, the planar

surface being comprised of a plurality of matter surface areas interconnected in a lattice-like pattern and having a plurality of eutouts-apertures between the matter surface areas;
and

a plurality of mutually spaced protrusions of substantially uniform height depending protruding from only one side of said matter surface areas ~~lattice-shaped planar surface~~; the apices of at least some of said protrusions forming a protrusion plane; ~~the protrusion plane~~ for abutment to the outer wall surface of the building;

whereby, when the spacer is in place, liquid and air may pass through channels formed between the protrusions to facilitate air circulation in, and liquid drainage from, the spacing between the outer wall surface and the exterior cladding material; and

wherein said protrusions have a shape selected from the group consisting of: pyramidal, flat topped pyramidal, conical, flat topped conical, rectangular based pyramid, cuboid and rectangular block.

24. (New) An air gap spacer for providing spacing between an outer wall surface of a building under construction and an exterior cladding material, the air gap spacer comprising:

a planar surface comprising al plurality of matter surface areas interconnected in a lattice-like pattern and a plurality of apertures between the matter surface areas, the apertures aggregately comprising a greater potion of the planar surface's total area than the matter surface areas aggregately comprise; and

a plurality of mutually spaced protrusions of substantially uniform height protruding from only one side of said matter surface areas, the apexes of at least some of said protrusions forming a protrusion plane, portions of the matter surface areas corresponding to the protrusions' bases being un-apertured on another side of the matter surface areas opposite the protrusions;

whereby, when the spacer is in place between the outer wall surface of the building and the exterior cladding material, liquid and air may pass through channels formed between the protrusions, and not through the protrusions, to facilitate air circulation in, and liquid drainage from, the spacing between the outer wall surface and the exterior cladding material.